

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 1924.

The meeting of this date was held at the New York Botanical Garden. The following were elected to membership in the Club:

Miss Olive Baron, 237 141st Street, Belle Harbor, L. I.

Miss Dorothy Buob, 341 West 50th St., New York, N. Y.

Miss Ella Chessler, 2127 81st St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mrs. Lewis B. Fairbanks, Bainbridge, Chenango Co., N. Y.

Mr. Charles Just, 164 Grove St., Passaic, N. J.

Miss Mary E. Reid, Boyce Thompson Inst., Yonkers, N. Y.

Mr. Benjamin O. Towne, 351 East 19th St., New York, N. Y.

Mr. Edward DuVivier, 7 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y.

The resignation of Dr. Isaac Levin was accepted.

Dr. N. L. Britton spoke briefly of the new New York State Museum Bulletin, No. 254, entitled "An annotated list of the Ferns and Flowering Plants of New York State", by Dr. Homer D. House. This work includes records of stations, and bibliographical references to date, making use also of the large amount of material available at the Museum herbarium at Albany. Dr. Britton stated that *Teesdalia nudicaulis* found by Bicknell on Long Island was not recorded. A specimen of this from the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden was exhibited and Dr. Britton remarked that a record of the find may not have been published. Dr. Britton felt that there were, perhaps, some inconsistencies in the work; e. g. in the Orchidaceae, Dr. House recognizes such genera as *Gymnadeniopsis*, *Limnorchis*, *Lysias*, *Blephariglottis*, etc., but in the *Lentibulariaceae* he does not divide *Utricularia* into the different genera of Barnhart.

"Photoperiodism in *Chara*" was the title of the talk which followed, by Mr. J. S. Karling. As to periodicity in the fructification of algae, there are two ideas prevalent: either that environmental conditions do not greatly affect the development of sexual organs, and that it is the result of inherent or inherited tendencies, or that the periodicity is entirely determined by external conditions.

Chara fragilis, the species worked with, is said to fruit naturally from June to September. Mr. Karling stated that by prolonging the day with the use of artificial illumination, the development of antheridia and oogonia can be induced abundantly

in a few days, in mid- and late winter. Within wide limits the response is not dependent on the intensity of illumination, under the conditions observed. Other results of the artificial illumination were lengthening of the internodes, shortening of the leaves, reduced branching, etiolation, and a general spindling habit in the plants. Very few of the eggs developed into mature oospores. The experiments indicate also that temperature is a factor of secondary importance in determining the production and functional activity of the sexual organs.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Karling said that the age of the plants had nothing whatever to do with the production of sexual organs, young and old alike responding to the artificial illumination.

ARTHUR A. GRAVES,
Secretary.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 1924.

The meeting of this date was held at the American Museum of Natural History. The program of the evening consisted of an illustrated lecture by Dr. Ephraim Ha Reubeni entitled, "New light on the flora of the Old and New Testaments." Dr. Ha Reubeni said that the translators and expositors of the Bible talk of plants which do not grow at all in places where they are assumed to grow, such as the *Urtica*, by which they usually translate the *Harul* of Proverbs XXIV, 31. *Urtica* does not grow in the open fields as is claimed for the *Harul* of this verse. No lily, as such, which might be referred to in "the lily of the fields," grows in Palestine.

Also many flowers highly characteristic of Palestine and conspicuously mentioned in the Bible, have not been recognized by biblical scholars. Examples are the *Kimosh* which is in reality the *Ammi* (*Ammi Visnaga* and *Ammi majus*). The *Sirim* of the Old Testament is *Pteridium spinosum*, found generally in the mountain country. *Zizyphus spina Christi* is the biblical *Atad*. *Bata* of Isaiah V, 6, is translated as "waste place." As a matter of fact, *Bata* is the name of *Vitex Agnus castus* famed of old for therapeutic qualities and found today growing by the side of brooks.

There are plants not mentioned as such in the Bible, but their names have been preserved in the names of persons or places,

e. g. Mayish (*Celtis australis*) which appears in the proper name Mishael. From Refah (*Artemisia monosperma*) one of the descendants of Ephraim is named. *Matricaria aurea* is used by the women of Palestine for a tea taken at childbirth.

During the winter season, which is rainy, the plants have a green, succulent aspect, while in summer, when rain never falls, they have quite a different appearance, some becoming quite hard and thorny. Thus it is that the Psalmist says: Ps. 32:4, "For day and night the land was heavy upon me; my moisture is turned into the drought of summer."

Two oaks are common: *Quercus lusitanica* in the central part of the country and *Q. coccifera* to the southward. The former is the biblical Nahalulim, while the latter is Nazusim.

As to what plant is meant by the lilies of the field, in "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these," Dr. Ha Reubeni believes for various reasons* that *Anthemis palestina* was indicated.

(An abstract of Dr. Ha Reubeni's address is printed in this issue.)

ARTHUR A. GRAVES,
Secretary.

NEWS NOTES

CHECK LIST OF THE FLORA OF THE VICINITY OF NEW YORK

Local botanists have suggested that a check list of the names in the writer's "Flora of the Vicinity of New York" would be useful on field trips and in checking collections.

Such a list will be prepared if there is sufficient demand for it, at fifty cents a copy, to cover printing and postage. In order to make the list of use to those who are familiar with only one of the manuals, the names used in the "Flora of the Vicinity of New York" and the "Gray Manual" will both be included. There will be, also, symbols indicating where the different species are chiefly found. Additions since the "Flora of the Vicinity of New York" will be included. If interested, write to Norman Taylor, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y.

* See Torreya 25: 35-38.